

Claims

1. Apparatus for the distribution of a random stream of items (10) into several lanes (11 to 16) in which the items (10) are transported individually one after the other, comprising a transport device (20) for the items (10) which has one or more driven conveyor belts (22) and side rails (24), a lane divider (30) which has several movable dividers (34) which divides the stream of transported items (10), and a device (40) for driving the lane divider (30), by which the dividers (34) being movable transversely to the direction of transport, characterized in that the lane divider (30) comprises a frame (32), to which the dividers (34) are fixed, and that the dividers (34) carry out a back and forth movement simultaneously in the direction of transport and transversely to it.

2. Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the middle divider (34) projects against the direction of transport and the side dividers (34) are set back staggered.

3. Apparatus according to one of claims 1 to 2, characterized in that the distance between the side rails (26, 36) is increased stepwise in the direction of transport, the increase commencing at a point which corresponds approximately to the diameter of an item (10) in front of the tip of the frontmost divider (34).

4. Apparatus according to claim 3, characterized in that the steps (28, 29, 38) are rounded in a grooved manner.

5. Apparatus according to one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the rail is divided and the part (36) of the rail in the area of the lane divider (30) can be moved outwards.